

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
ONE SOUTHPARK CIRCLE, SUITE 306
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29407-4699
TELEPHONE 803/571-4366 FAX 769-4520
E-mail: safmc@safmc.nmfs.gov



News Release

RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY
CONTACT: SUSAN BUCHANAN
803/571-4366

September 10, 1996

South Atlantic Rock Shrimp Regulations Final

Effective October 9, 1996, trawling for rock shrimp in the south Atlantic will be prohibited between 27°30' N. lat. and 28°30' N. lat. in the area extending shoreward of the 100-fathom depth contour to 80°00' W. long. The final rule to implement rock shrimp regulations (Amendment 1 to the South Atlantic Shrimp Fishery Management Plan) was published in the Federal Register on September 9, 1996.

The area closed to rock shrimp trawling was proposed by the industry as a means of achieving an acceptable balance between protecting essential bottom habitat resources and minimizing adverse, regulatory impacts.

Prohibiting trawling for rock shrimp in the area will enhance existing federal regulations for coral and snapper grouper by protecting essential live/hard bottom habitat including *Oculina* coral and the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern from trawl-related damage.

A secondary benefit of the trawling closure may be higher fishery yields and revenues over the long-term, because small shrimp, otherwise harvested, will be allowed to reach a larger size.

The council deliberately chose permitting and reporting and recordkeeping requirements that would minimize burdens on reporting entities while still providing the information on actual landings and harvest locations necessary for management.

While permits are required for vessels and dealers, only the dealers are required to submit reports on landings. The council decided this approach would minimize burdens on individual fishermen and encouraged the National Marine Fisheries Service to use information from state fisheries agencies, particularly from Florida where most landings occur, to minimize additional reporting burdens on dealers.

Permit applications should be sent to:

Permits Branch, NMFS Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive, N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
Phone: (813) 570-5326

South Atlantic Rock Shrimp Regulations:

- (1) Add rock shrimp to the management unit of the South Atlantic Shrimp Fishery Management Plan;
- (2) Prohibit trawling for rock shrimp in an area off the east coast of Florida that includes the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern;
- (3) Require a dealer in the rock shrimp fishery to obtain an annual dealer permit by November 1, 1996;
- (4) Require an annual vessel permit to harvest rock shrimp in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), effective November 1, 1996;
- (5) Require permitted dealers to report information to monitor the fishery; and
- (6) Require that the initial sale, trade, barter, or transfer of rock shrimp harvested in the EEZ occur only between permitted dealers and permitted vessels (effective November 1, 1996).

Area Closed to Rock Shrimp Trawling Off the East Coast of Florida

